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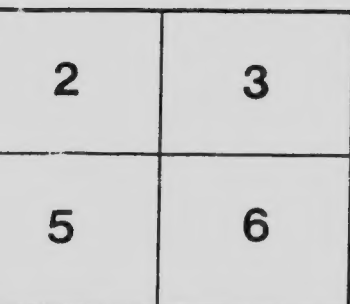
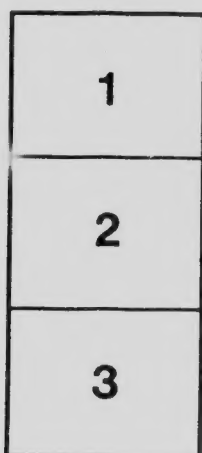
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NOTES ON THE CULTIVATION OF SOME STAPLE VEGETABLES

BY

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It is very important that those who are making a garden for the first time should have some knowledge of the way to grow the different kinds of vegetables, hence the following information is given in regard to some of the staple kinds.

CARROTS AND PARSNIPS.

These should be grown in deep, thoroughly prepared soil of loose open texture, to admit of even root development. This is especially true in the case of parsnips, as a heavy compact soil develops a poorly shaped and rooty parsnip. The ground may be spring or fall manured, ploughed deeply and thoroughly worked.

The seed is sown in the open ground usually before the middle of May, in rows two and one-half feet apart, at the rate of two pounds per acre for carrots and four pounds per acre for parsnips. The carrots may be thinned to two inches apart, and the parsnips four inches. If carrots are spaced too far apart in the row they become too large for table use. The ground should be rich enough and sufficient moisture maintained by frequent cultivation to continue an even growth throughout the season. The root should be kept covered with soil to the top, preventing the top of the root from becoming green, which is objectionable for market carrots.

BEETS.

Beets for early use should be started as early as possible on well prepared ground. For winter use seeding toward the last of May, or early in June, is advised, as the beet does not become so large. Any good soil will develop good beets providing a uniform growth is maintained. A checked growth has a tendency to produce fibre.

Six pounds of seed per acre is usually used. The seed is sown in rows two and one-half feet apart, and the plants thinned to three to four inches apart.

BEANS.

Beans do best on a fairly rich soil, and unlike the pea, require a warm situation and warm soil. While the pea will do well on a fairly heavy soil, the bean likes a loose, friable soil for best development. The seed should be sown not earlier than the middle of May. They are usually planted in rows two and one-half feet apart, and the seed dropped two to three inches apart and one to one and one-half inches deep.

Successional sowings may be made every two weeks until the middle of July, for the purpose of extending the season into the fall.

DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

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ONIONS.

Onions do best on a light loamy soil rich in plant food. Light loams can be worked to better advantage than heavier loams and do not dry out so badly during summer. An abundance of available plant food is necessary if profitable crops are to be obtained, and consequently a soil that has been manured for several seasons previously should be selected. The land should be free from stone, and weed seeds.

Onions may be grown in the same land year after year, and it cannot be made too rich. Well-rotted barnyard manure applied in the fall and ploughed in shallow, about four inches deep, is one of the best fertilizers. Fifteen tons per acre annually is a good application. If the soil is well supplied with vegetable matter successful crops may be grown with commercial fertilizers applied at the rate of 500 to 1,000 pounds per acre. This is sown broadcast and harrowed in just before seeding.

The ground can be best prepared with the disc, springtooth, and smoothing harrows, and should be well pulverized to a depth of four inches.

The seed is sown in rows on the level ground 12 to 14 inches apart and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds per acre. A hand seeder is usually used. A seeder and wheel hoe combined can be purchased from any seed merchant at a reasonable rate. Seeding should be done as soon in the spring as possible, so that the plants will get well established before the dry, hot weather of summer.

Maintenance tillage is done principally with the wheel hoe, and consists in keeping the surface ground loose around the plants and all weeds from starting.

The falling down and withering of the tops indicates maturity, at which time the onions should be pulled. They are left for a week to dry, after which they may be topped and put into slatted crates, or put into these crates without topping, taken to a shed and allowed to cure for two or three weeks, after which they are ready for market. The advantage of the crate is that a small bulk of onions is together with plenty of ventilation, which is very necessary for proper curing for storage or shipment. They should not be stored in bags or in large piles in bulk. They may be stored in slatted bins arranged one above another, 10 inches to 12 inches deep. If stored the temperature should be kept as low as possible and the air be dry.

Onions may be started in flats in the hotbed or greenhouse for a to twelve weeks before ready to plant, being set in the open ground early in May. They will transplant easily, and good large plants will prove most satisfactory. About ten good plants can be grown on a square inch. The seed should not be sown too thickly. One and one-half to two pounds of seed will give sufficient plants to set an acre, spacing the plants four inches apart in rows one foot apart. The disadvantage is the expense of transplanting. For securing early onions and onions of large size this practice is advisable.

CABBAGE.

Any good garden soil will grow cabbage. A warm, well drained sandy loam, very rich in plant food, is best for early cabbage. A northern exposure is best for late cabbage and a heavy soil may be used. The cabbage is a gross feeder and there is no danger from making the ground too rich. Twenty tons or more per acre of manure can be used, and this may be supplemented with from 500 to 1,500 pounds of commercial fertilizer for an acre. Commercial fertilizer is especially advisable for early cabbage where the object is to develop marketable cabbage quickly.

If the ground has been manured in the fall and ploughed, it should be again ploughed in the spring and thoroughly worked to a depth of six inches.

For early cabbage start the seed about March 15. The seedlings are transplanted to two inches apart three weeks later, and will be ready for the open ground early in May. The plants are usually set on the level in rows 30 inches apart and 18 inches

apart in the row. Late cabbage are usually grown from seed sown thinly in a cold frame early in May and plants from these are set in the field about the middle of June, spacing the plants in rows 32 inches apart and 20 to 22 inches apart in the row.

The usual maintenance tillage should be given during the summer, and the ground not allowed to become hard and compact or to dry out.

In the storing of late cabbage cut the heads during a dry day and store where good ventilation is possible. The air should be kept dry and the temperature as low as possible. The heads should be placed on slatted shelves far enough apart to store two or three tiers of cabbage, with a good chance for ventilation under the shelves. A confined atmosphere renders cabbage storage impossible.

CAULIFLOWER.

The cauliflower requires a cool, rich loam. A northern exposure is best. Continuous growth is important, and anything that tends to check the plant in any way should be avoided. Dry weather often results in failure, and where watering is possible it may be advisable. For early and late cauliflower start the seed and handle the same as for early and late cabbage, except that more careful attention should be given to detail in the development of plants. Like the cabbage, it takes about seven weeks to develop a stocky, properly hardened-off plant. They may be spaced in the field the same as cabbage.

When the heads are three to four inches in diameter the leaves should be tied together over the head in order to develop a good white flower.

TURNIPS.

The early turnips may be sown as soon as the ground is fit, in well prepared soil. The Swede turnip should be sown about the last of May. They do best on a good loam retentive of moisture. Continuous growth is necessary to develop good quality. Like most of the root crops, they develop best during the damp, cool fall weather, and the advantage of late seeding is that they make little growth during the hot summer, developing a succulent tissue in the fall. Swede turnips planted early are very liable to be checked in growth during the heat of the summer, developing a root containing much fibre, and lacking in quality.

CORN.

A warm, friable, rich soil should be selected for garden corn. The seed is sown in hills three and one-half feet apart each way, and five plants allowed to develop in a hill. The seed is sown soon after the middle of May. Early and late varieties should be planted to extend the supply of table corn into the fall. As is the case with peas and beans, constant surface cultivation to keep the weeds down and maintain a loose surface mulch is necessary.

PEAS.

Garden peas may be sown as soon as the ground is fit to work. The land should be fall manured with ten to fifteen tons of well rotted manure per acre, and ploughed. This is well worked in the spring to a depth of five inches. The seed is usually sown in rows two and one-half feet apart, and the seed planted one inch apart in the row.

Dwarf and semi-dwarf varieties do not require staking. It is advisable to stake the tall-growing sorts.

If one variety only is used, successional sowings should be made every week or ten days until the first of June. The garden pea is a cool season vegetable, and will

not do well during the heat of summer. The season may be extended also by planting late maturing varieties. The early seeding is usually made one to one and one-half inches deep; the later seeding, two to three inches deep.

RADISH.

The radish may be sown as soon as the ground is fit to work, in rows one foot apart, and the plants thinned to one inch apart. Successional sowings may be made one week apart until the first of June.

LETTUCE.

Any good garden soil will grow lettuce. The ground should be rich and fairly friable. The seed may be sown inside six weeks before planting outside is possible. The plants are developed as is the case with cabbage. They may be set in rows one foot apart, and six inches apart in the row.

Seed may be sown in the open ground as soon as it is fit to work, and the plants thinned to four or six inches apart. Successional sowings may be made every two weeks until the first of June. Seed may be sown the last of August for a fall crop on well prepared soil.

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